

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

5 providing a host-wizard component;

 providing one or more sub-wizard components; and

 said host-wizard invoking said one or more sub components during said host component execution.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said one or more sub-wizard components is a browser based object component.

3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said one or more sub-wizard components is an operating system based application component object extension.

4. A system for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

a host wizard, said host-wizard having an interface adapted to communicate with other wizards and a host navigational component adapted to transfer control to other wizards;

one or more sub-wizard components, said one or more sub-wizard component having a sub-wizard interface adapted to communicate with other wizards and a sub-wizard navigational component adapted to transfer control to other wizards;

20 wherein said host-wizard can communicate with said one or more sub-wizard components through said host-wizard interface and at least one of said sub-wizard interfaces; and

wherein control between said host-wizard and said one or more sub-wizard components can be transferred to one another through said host navigational component and said sub-wizard navigational component to create an extended wizard.

5 5. A system as recited in claim 4 wherein said one or more sub-wizards is a browser based object component.

6. A system as recited in claim 4 wherein said one or more sub-wizards is a component object extension.

7. A method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

providing a host wizard;

providing a web component comprising:

a web page, said web page containing a header area, a wizard control area and a control interface area;

one or more object module functions, said object module functions enabling navigation; and

said control interface area having navigation control means for recursive navigation within said web component and to said host wizard, by utilizing said one or more object module functions;

providing a user interface that integrates said web component into said host wizard; and

20 providing an information container to exchange informational items between said web component and said host wizard.

8. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

providing a host-wizard component;

providing one or more sub-wizard components; and

5 said host component capable of invoking said one or more sub components during said host-wizard component execution.

9. A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute a method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

providing a host-wizard component;

providing one or more sub-wizard components; and

said host component invoking said one or more sub components during said host-wizard component execution.

10. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

providing a host wizard;

providing a web component comprising:

a web page, said web page containing a header area, a wizard control area and a control interface area;

20 one or more object module functions, said object module functions enabling navigation; and

said control interface area having navigation control means for recursive navigation within said web component and to said host wizard, by utilizing said one or more object module functions;

providing a user interface that integrates said web component into said host wizard; and

5 providing an information container to exchange informational items between said web component and said host wizard.

11. A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute a method for use in a computing environment for extending a wizard comprising:

providing a host wizard;

providing a web component comprising:

a web page, said web page containing a header area, a wizard control area and a control interface area;

one or more object module functions, said object module functions enabling navigation; and

said control interface area having navigation control means for recursive navigation within said web component and to said host wizard, by utilizing said one or more object module functions;

providing a user interface that integrates said web component into said host wizard; and

20 providing an information container to exchange informational items between said web component and said host wizard.

12. A method for use in a computing environment for chaining wizards comprising:

providing a first wizard;

providing a second wizard; and

providing at least one navigation component on each of said first and second wizards, said navigation components allowing sequential progression or regression through said first and second wizards to chain said second wizard to said first wizard.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said first wizard is selected from the group consisting of an operating system based wizard and a web based wizard; and

said second wizard is selected from the group consisting of an operating system based wizard and a web based wizard.

14. A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute a method for use in a computing environment for chaining wizards comprising:

providing a first wizard;

providing a second wizard; and

providing at least one navigation component on each of said first and second wizards, said navigation components allowing sequential progression or regression through said first and second wizards to chain said second wizard to said first wizard.

15. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for use in a computing environment for chaining wizards comprising:

providing a first wizard;

providing a second wizard; and

5 providing at least one navigation component on each of said first and second wizards, said navigation components allowing sequential progression or regression through said first and second wizards to chain said second wizard to said first wizard.

10045953-103001